

Head of Evaluation Task Force speaks in new “A Modern Civil Service” Podcast

News story

Catherine Hutchinson, Head of the Evaluation Task Force, has shared her views on policy evaluation in government in the new “A Modern Civil Service” Podcast.



The [Modernisation and Reform](#) unit at the Cabinet Office has launched a new “A Modern Civil Service” podcast that focuses on matters around building [a skilled, innovative and ambitious Civil Service](#) for the UK.

In the first episode “fail fast; fail small; fail smart”, Catherine Hutchinson, Head of the Evaluation Task Force, sits down with host Sapana Agrawal, Director of Modernisation and Reform, to discuss all things evaluation.

Catherine says, “if you’re not failing, you’re not doing your job properly,” as she highlights how learning from past mistakes is the key to how evaluations help government deliver more effective and efficient services to the British people.

Catherine goes on to cover the differences between randomised controlled trials (RCTs), counterfactuals and adaptive evaluations and suggests some top tips on how to improve your own evaluation.

About the Evaluation Task Force

Our [short video](#) provides an introduction to the Evaluation Task Force.

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Passenger trapped in tram doors and dragged at Shudehill tram stop

News story

Passenger trapped in tram doors and dragged at Shudehill tram stop, Manchester, 27 May 2022.



The tram in the platform at Shudehill during post-accident testing

At around 11:16 hrs on 27 May 2022, a passenger was dragged around 13 metres before falling onto the platform at Shudehill tram stop, after their bag became trapped in a departing tram's closing doors. They sustained injuries to their face and hand. The tram driver was unaware of the presence of the passenger when the tram departed from the tram stop.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will be made available on our website in the next few weeks.

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UK reveals Royal Navy seizure of

smuggled Iranian missiles

In early 2022, whilst on routine maritime security operations, Royal Navy ship [HMS Montrose](#) seized Iranian weapons from speedboats being operated by smugglers in international waters south of Iran. The weapons seized included surface-to-air-missiles and engines for land attack cruise missiles, in contravention of UN Security Council resolution 2216 (2015).

This is the first time a British Naval warship has interdicted a vessel carrying such sophisticated weapons from Iran.

The seizures, which occurred on 28th January and 25th February 2022, took place in the early hours of the morning. HMS Montrose's [Wildcat helicopter](#), equipped with state of the art radar systems, was scanning for vessels smuggling illicit goods. The helicopter crew spotted small vessels moving at speed away from the Iranian coast.

During the February interdiction, United States Navy destroyer USS Gridley supported efforts by deploying a Seahawk helicopter to provide critical overwatch during the operation. On both occasions, the Wildcat helicopter pursued the vessels and reported back to HMS Montrose that they could see suspicious cargo on deck.

A team of Royal Marines approached the vessels on two Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boats before securing and searching the vessel. Dozens of packages containing advanced weaponry were discovered, confiscated and brought back to HMS Montrose.

Minister for the Armed Forces James Heappey said:

The UK is committed to upholding international law, from standing up to aggression in Europe to interdicting illegal shipments of weaponry that perpetuates instability in the Middle East. The UK will continue to work in support of an enduring peace in Yemen and is committed to international maritime security so that commercial shipping can transit safely without threat of disruption.

The seized packages were returned to the UK for technical analysis which revealed that the shipment contained multiple rocket engines for the Iranian produced 351 land attack cruise missile and a batch of 358 surface-to-air missiles.

The 351 is a cruise missile with a range of 1,000km. It is regularly used by the Houthis to strike targets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and was also the type of weapon used to attack Abu Dhabi on 17th January 2022, which killed three civilians.

On Friday 24 June, the Ministry of Defence hosted the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140 (2014), which

concerns the conflict in Yemen. The panel inspected the seized weapons and received a technical brief by the UK's Defence Intelligence analysts.

Commanding Officer of HMS Montrose, Commander Claire Thompson, said:

These interdictions demonstrate the professionalism and commitment of the Royal Navy to promoting stability in this region. I am extremely proud of my crew – the Royal Navy sailors, aircrew and Royal Marines involved in these endeavours and the significant positive impact they are having in maintaining the international rules-based order at sea.

The UK retains a permanent presence in the Middle East, with HMS Montrose having been deployed to the region since early 2019, actively supporting multi-national maritime security operations and protecting the interests of the United Kingdom and its allies. The ship operates under the control and direction of the [UK Maritime Component Command](#) (UKMCC), based in Bahrain.

In the wider Gulf, HMS Montrose regularly works alongside international partners as part of the 38-nation coalition Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). CMF is the world's largest multinational maritime partnership, which exists to counter illicit non-state actors. HMS Montrose, a Type 23 frigate, has taken part in numerous successful operations to seize illicit drugs in the Gulf of Oman, most recently in January when [£15 million worth of heroin, methamphetamine, hashish and marijuana were seized](#).

[Heylo Housing Registered Provider](#) [Limited grading under review](#)

Press release

Providers being investigated for an issue regarding their compliance with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard are added to the regulator's GUR list.



The Regulator of Social Housing reports that Heylo Housing Registered Provider Limited has been placed on its gradings under review list today (7 July 2022).

The regulator is currently investigating a matter which may impact on the provider's compliance with the governance element of the Governance and Financial Viability Standard. Once completed, the outcome of the investigation will be confirmed in a regulatory judgement.

The regulator notifies that a provider's grading is under review when it is being investigated in relation to an issue which may result in it receiving a non-compliant grade (G3 or G4 for governance, or V3 or V4 for viability).

The regulator's [gradings under review list](#) is available on its website.

For press office contact details, see our [Media enquiries page](#).

For general queries, please email enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or call 0300 124 5225.

Notes to editors

1. The GUR lists providers where we are investigating a matter that might result in them being assessed as non-compliant in relation to the regulator's Governance and Financial Viability Standard.
2. The [regulatory standards](#) can be found on the RSH website.
3. The Regulator of Social Housing promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

UNICEF and British Embassy Asuncion encourage young people's commitment to the environment

Five groups of students from Asuncion, San Lorenzo, Fernando de la Mora, Ciudad del Este and San Pedro participated of in a workshop where, with the help of mentors, they refined the projects they had previously developed. The workshop took place on the weekend of 25 June, 2022.

A jury composed of Antonieta Rojas de Arias and Alberto Yanovsky, members of the Scientific Society of Paraguay, evaluated and selected the two best proposals. These will receive UNICEF support for implementation. Rojas commented:

It has been really great because all the groups show a deep commitment to all the processes and to the conservation of biodiversity and the relationship between the community and the environment.

Yonovsky added:

The proposals are motivating. You come away feeling renewed because you see the energy young people have .

One of the selected projects proposes the creation of urban gardens in Luque to treat the grey water produced in schools, and at the same time produce organic food in a sustainable way. The other proposes the installation of rubbish bins and a compost bin to manage waste from three educational institutions in Guayaibi, department of San Pedro.

In the words of UNICEF Deputy Representative Viviana Limpas:

Paraguay is a country where there are many opportunities to do many things, but we as an organization cannot do it if it is not through you, through your creativity, through your strength.

We want to continue strengthening proposals like these and support you in your work and enthusiasm.

British Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, John Davie said:

I was very surprised by the depth of knowledge the young people have on the issue of climate change.

The Youth Challenge aims to develop skills for employability and social impact, as well as to build confidence and empower youth. It is part of the "Generation Unlimited" global partnership, which aims to ensure that by 2030 all adolescents and young people have access to education, learning, training or employment to build a better future.